

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) adapted for use in a pressurised system which comprises a radial sealing ring provided with at least a pair of primary sealing lips (9 and 10) radially disposed on a first, circumferential, face (13) of the ring; a second, axial end, face (14) of the radial sealing ring being provided with means for dispersing pressurized fluid characterized in that the means for dispersing the pressurized fluid is a labyrinth seal (15 or 16) located on the axial end face (14).

2. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the means for dispersing the pressurized fluid comprises means for dispersing pressure in a circumferential direction.

3. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 2 characterised in that the means for dispersing the pressurized fluid comprises means for dispersing pressure in a circumferential direction and a radial direction.

4. (currently amended) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the first circumferential face of the radial sealing ring is the inner face and ~~the~~ a second circumferential face is the outer face.

5. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the radial sealing ring is adapted to be used in a system wherein the external pressure on the radial sealing ring is greater than the internal pressure.

6. (currently amended) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 5 characterised in that the primary sealing lips (9 and 10) are radially disposed from an outer circumferential face of the radial sealing ring, whilst the means for dispersing pressurised fluid is provided on the axial end face of the radial sealing ring.

7. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that both axial end faces of the radial sealing ring are provided with a pressurized fluid dispersing means (15 and 16).

8. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 6 characterised in that the labyrinth seal (15 and 16) comprises a plurality of apertures.

9. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 6 characterised in that the labyrinth seal (15 and 16) comprises a plurality of holes.

10. (currently amended) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to claim 8 characterised in that the apertures ~~or holes~~ are arranged in a regular pattern.

11. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 10 characterised in that the regular pattern is a 'brick-bond' pattern.

12. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the means for dispersing the pressurized fluid is an integral part of the axial end face of the radial sealing ring.

13. (currently amended) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 11 characterised in that the apertures ~~or holes~~ are in a the regular pattern of two or three circumferential rows.

14. (currently amended) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 13 characterised in that the apertures ~~or holes~~ are in a the regular pattern of two circumferential rows.

15. (currently amended) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to claim 8 characterised in that the apertures ~~or holes~~ are from 0.5mm to 2.0mm deep.

16. (currently amended) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to claim 8 characterised in that the apertures ~~or holes~~ are preferably substantially the same size and shape.

17. (currently amended) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the assembly is adapted to tolerate from 20 to 70 bar ~~under conventional operating conditions~~.

18. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the radial seal is provided with a containment ring (18).

19. (currently amended) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 18 characterised in that the containment ring (18) is on the second or outer circumferential face of the radial sealing ring.

20. (currently amended) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 20 characterised in that the containment ring (18) is on the first or inner circumferential face of the radial sealing ring.

21. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 20 characterised in that the containment ring (18) comprises a support ring (23) around the second or outer circumferential face of the radial sealing ring.

22. (currently amended) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 21 characterised in that the support ring (23) is preferentially a coiled spring.

23. (currently amended) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the seal sealing ring assembly is provided with a containment ring (18) around the second or outer circumferential face of the radial sealing ring.

24. (currently amended) A radial sealing assembly unit (8 34) which comprises a pair of primary sealing lips (9 ~~and 10~~ 35, 36) and a pair of secondary sealing lips (44, 45), ~~one of the primary~~ pair radially disposed on a first or inner circumferential face, the ~~second~~ secondary pair radially disposed on a second or outer circumferential face, of the radial sealing assembly unit, the primary and secondary lips (14 ~~and 15;~~ and 35 and 36) being connected by a containment ring.

25. (currently amended) A method of introducing a three way joint into a pipeline which comprises a hole in a pipe and attaching a second pipe over the hole wherein ~~the a~~ radial sealing ring assembly (8), ~~according to any one of the preceding claims- which~~ comprises a radial sealing ring provided with at least a pair of primary sealing lips (9 and 10) radially disposed on a first, circumferential face (13) of the ring; a second, axial end face (14) of the radial sealing ring being provided with means for dispersing pressurized fluid characterized in that the means for dispersing the pressurized fluid is a labyrinth seal (15 or 16) located on the axial end face (14), lies between the two pipes.

26. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 25 characterised in that the method comprises using a plurality of the radial sealing rings (8) ~~according to Claim 1.~~

27. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 26 characterised in that the method comprises using an outermost radial sealing ring which is provided with outer facing sealing lips and an innermost radial sealing ring which is provided with inner facing sealing lips.

28. (original) A method according to Claim 19 ~~27~~ characterised in that the innermost and outermost radial sealing rings are separate.

29. (canceled).

30. (new) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to claim 9 characterised in that the holes are arranged in a regular pattern.

31. (new) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to claim 9 characterised in that the holes are from 0.5mm to 2.0mm deep.

32. (new) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to claim 9 characterised in that the holes are preferably substantially the same size and shape.